

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 340

2 INTRODUCED BY MACDONALD, GETZ, MALEK, HAMILTON, POMNICHOWSKI, CAMPBELL, FUREY,
3 GRINDE, BOSS RIBS, FRENCH, MCCLAFFERTY, FLEMING, PEASE-LOPEZ, DRISCOLL, DICKENSON,
4 BRANAE

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6 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT DESIGNATING THE THIRD SATURDAY OF JUNE AS
7 JUNETEENTH NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY IN ORDER TO COMMEMORATE AFRICAN-AMERICAN
8 EMANCIPATION FROM SLAVERY."

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10 WHEREAS, news of the end of slavery did not reach frontier areas of the United States, and in particular
11 the Southwestern States, for more than 2 years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January
12 1, 1863, and months after the conclusion of the Civil War; and

13 WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston,
14 Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free; and

15 WHEREAS, African Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly
16 known as Juneteenth Independence Day, as the anniversary of their emancipation; and

17 WHEREAS, African Americans from the Southwest continue the tradition of Juneteenth Independence
18 Day as inspiration and encouragement for future generations; and

19 WHEREAS, for more than 135 years, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to
20 honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures; and

21 WHEREAS, although Juneteenth Independence Day is beginning to be recognized as a national and
22 even global event, the history behind the celebration should not be forgotten; and

23 WHEREAS, the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves remains an example for
24 all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race; AND

25 WHEREAS, THE CHARACTER DEMONSTRATED BY FORMER SLAVES SHOULD INSPIRE US IN THIS COUNTRY TO
26 GIVE THANKS FOR THE FREEDOM WON BY SO MANY PEOPLE IN ALL NATIONS CHERISHING LIBERTY AND TO STRIVE FOR THE
27 GOALS OF BRINGING FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY TO PEOPLE OF OTHER COUNTRIES NO MATTER WHAT THEIR RACE OR
28 RELIGION.

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30 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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2 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Juneteenth National Freedom Day.** The third Saturday in June is

3 designated as Juneteenth National Freedom Day to commemorate African-American emancipation from slavery,

4 TO CELEBRATE THE FREEDOM WON BY PEOPLE IN MANY COUNTRIES, AND TO REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE CAUSE OF

5 LIBERTY FOR PEOPLE WHO YET SUFFER FROM TYRANNY AND OPPRESSION.

7 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a
8 copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell
9 Chippewa tribe.

11 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
12 integral part of Title 1, chapter 1, part 2, and the provisions of Title 1, chapter 1, part 2, apply to [section 1].

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